News

SMPTE Officials Speak at HDTV Symposium in Tokyo

An SMPTE delegation led by Society President Harold J. Eady, Novo Communications, participated in a series of technical sessions on high-definition television at an HDTV symposium in Tokyo, Japan, September 17-18. The two-day symposium, the first stop by the SMPTE officials on a Far East trip that also included a meeting in Beijing, China, drew engineers and technical personnel from Sony, Fuji, Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK), Matsushita, Far East Labs, and other well-known Japanese companies. Other countries were represented as well.

The specialized symposium attracted about 250 representatives of the Japanese film and television industry. It was arranged by the Motion Picture and Television Engineers of Japan (MPTEJ) and co-hosted by the SMPTE. Among the MPTEJ members at the symposium were MPTEJ Chairman Masahiko Morizono, deputy president, Sony Corp.; Keinosuke Nakajima, president, NAC Camera Service Co.; and Nobutada Yagi, Nihon University.

In his keynote speech at the opening session, of which he was co-chairman, Eady provided an illustrated review of the role the SMPTE has played in the early demonstrations of high-definition television in the U.S. He said the Society has been active, through its conferences and journal, in the dissemination of information pertaining to the 1125-line, 60-field HDTV, developed and proposed by NHK. Eady also discussed additional television enhancement systems currently under scrutiny by the Society, the SMPTE's achievements in the standards field, and the record of the organization's service to both the television and film industries. He expressed a desire that the two Societies will work closely with one another to arrange similar specialized symposia.

SMPTE Engineering Vice-President Richard G. Streeter, CBS Broadcast Group, expanded on Eady's presentation by explaining the current position of the Society — and its diligent work — in sponsoring HDTV demonstrations in the U.S. He emphasized the need for a world HDTV standard, and pointed out that the SMPTE contributed a significant share of the committee work that led to the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) recommendations for a U.S. State Dept. posture at the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) meetings in Geneva.

The chairman of the SMPTE Working Group on High Definition Television Electronic Production, Richard J. Stumpf, Universal City Studios, gave a presentation titled "A Film Studio Look at HDTV."

Other SMPTE members who attended the symposium included SMPTE Executive Vice-President M. Carlos Kennedy, Ampex Corp.; SMPTE Eastern Region Governor Irwin Young, Du Art Film Laboratories, Inc.; Joseph Roizen, Telegen; and Arnold Brown, National Film Service, Inc.

From Tokyo the delegation traveled to Beijing, China, for a meeting with Chinese film and television officials. There, SMPTE Governor-at-Large Bengt O. Orhall, AB Film-Teknik, and SMPTE Secretary Stephen D. Kerman, Tektronix, Inc., joined the Tokyo group. A more detailed report of the trip will appear in a future issue of the *Journal*.

Addendum to 1984 Progress Report

The information below is an addition to the 1984 Progress Report published in the April 1985 *SMPTE Journal*.

Networks

In 1984, ABC provided the technical facilities for the U.S. broadcast of the 1984 Winter Olympic Games and hosted the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. This was the first time a U.S. broadcaster had taken on this responsibility for the Summer Games.

The ABC Unilateral Broadcast Center in Sarajevo was designed and assembled in New York City, then was fully tested and shipped to Yugoslavia via 32 tractor/trailers on a container ship in October 1983. Three months and 150 miles of cable later, the system was fully operational and represented the latest state of the art in high-tech television broadcast facilities. Three hundred and fifty technicians, a portion of the total staff of 650 ABC-TV Sports personnel, were involved in bringing a total of 65 hours of Olympic television to the U.S. viewers. "Point of View" miniature cameras, Quantel Mirage & Paint Box, Ampex ADO, Dubner CBGs, and Chyron IVs were part of the unique electronic equipment employed to bring a new and different dimension to the telecasting of winter sports.

ABC domestic coverage of the Summer Olympics contained over 180 hours of live broadcasting, organized out of three control rooms in a newly-equipped Unilateral Broadcast Center at the ABC Television Center in Hollywood. Signals from venues as far away as Lake Casitas, 95 miles north of Hollywood, and Fairbanks Ranch, 121 miles to the south, were sent via common carrier, fiber-optic circuits, private microwave, and satellite earth stations to the two Broadcast Centers for distribution, coordination, editing, and broadcast.

The international broadcasters received all 1300 hours of competition from ABC's pickup, and were able to add their own commentary to the natural sound through the provision of 360 fully-equipped commentator's positions. ABC employed over 4000 personnel in this broadcast effort. The equipment consisted of more than 70 studio cameras, 30 handheld cameras, 280 videotape machines, 1800 monitors, 36 mobile units, 20 digital graphics devices, 900 miles of in-plant cable, and over three years were spent in its design and construction.

As part of the innovative coverage of the Games, ABC pioneered development of the "Super Slo-Mo" and introduced its Olympic use, along with specially designed and built electric vehicles and a "wakeless" boat for coverage of the rowing competition. This was all part of the largest effort ever put together by an American network to bring the Olympic Games to the U.S. audience and the world.

ABC continued to work on cost, technical quality, and operational flexibility as the basis for its network satellite distribution. C-Band technology was chosen for cost stability, 2-degree compatability, and picture quality. Each affiliates' earth station consisted of a 7.3-m steerable antenna, 4.5-m fixed back-up antenna, and 4 Avantek frequency agile receivers. Seventy percent of affiliates have been co-located with their TV station facilities.

Satellite network control is presently accomplished by an IBM PC via telephone lines (DDD), but will be on subcarriers via the video path when completed. Operationally, the network can be quickly reconfigured for regional news and sports networks, sectional commercial feeds and backhaul, and has spot-beam capability for transmission to Hawaii and Puerto Rico. By the end of 1984, there were 60 affiliates receiving satellite network signals.

Worldwide Digital Videotape Format Standardized

The fundamental parameters for the first standardized broadcast-quality digital videotape recording format were approved July 24 by the SMPTE Working Group on Digital Television Tape Recording (WG-DTTR). The group met in New York and agreed to submit to formal ballot a series of draft SMPTE standards.

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Because of close cooperation with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the new format represents a worldwide consensus. The newly approved draft EBU specifications are essentially identical to the draft SMPTE standards.

The new SMPTE format is named Type D-1. It defines a component digital television recording system that will produce high-quality recordings of 525-line digital video signals conforming to CCIR Rec. 601. The advantages of the digital recording format include essentially perfect recording and playback through 10 to 20 generations, four high-quality digital audio channels, and production versatility comparable to that of the SMPTE Type-C analog recording format.

Several years of discussion by an earlier SMPTE study group, and 18 months of intense activity by the WG-DTTR, led to this important milestone. The start of the balloting process represents agreement by the WG-DTTR members present at the meeting that the working group objectives had been met. The balloting process follows the standardization procedures of the SMPTE and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The new SMPTE draft standards specify the dimensions of the magnetic patterns recorded on tape, the characteristics of the magnetic tape itself, the design of the cassette in which the tape is housed, the electrical characteristics of the digital audio and video signals placed on the tape, and specifications for control-track and time-code recordings.

Membership of the SMPTE WG-DTTR consists of representatives of television equipment manufacturers, network engineering departments, production houses, tape manufacturers, and others in the field. Experts from the U.S., Canada, Japan, England, and Germany are participants. The WG-DTTR is a sub-unit of the SMPTE Committee on Video Recording and Reproducing Technology (VRRT), the group charged by ANSI and SMPTE with the preparation of standards in the field of video recording.

The new format is unique in two respects. First, Type D-1 mechanisms and signal processing systems can be used worldwide for any digital television signals that conform to CCIR Rec. 601. Second, the designer of a D-1 tape transport mechanism can use one of several different combinations of tape scanner diameters and data head arrangements. The format allows different design choices to be made for different applications. Testing of recordings made according to the draft D-1 standards, necessary to prove satisfactory recording interchange, will begin under WG-DTTR auspices after the several participating manufacturers have completed prototype machines. This evaluation process will begin in 1986. Production equipment is expected in 1987.

For the first time, a truly universal format for broadcast program recording has been defined. The WG-DTTR worked in close cooperation with the Specialist Group MAGNUM of the EBU. MAGNUM has recently approved an essentially identical standard for use with 625-line PAL and SECAM television systems found in Europe and elsewhere. Both the EBU and the U.S. contributed full descriptions of the new format to the CCIR meeting held in Geneva in October. Although some input and output signal processing differences will exist to suit 525 and 625-line broadcast practices, all video signals recorded on tape by a Type D-1 recorder anywhere in the world will be identical and will conform to the 4-2-2 (13.5-6.75-6.75 MHz) sampling procedure of CCIR Rec. 601, the internationally agreed specification for component (Y, $B-Y$, $R-Y$) digital television signals. The digital audio signals will conform to specifications agreed to by the EBU and the Audio Engineering Society.

Elimination of Setup on NTSC Studied by SMPTE Group

A decision to investigate the elimination of setup in NTSC systems working in combined component/composite facilities was announced jointly by Merrill Weiss, Imagex, and Stan Baron, CBS, chairmen of the working groups on Component Analog Video Standards and Digital Video Standards, respectively. The two groups, which together are responsible for standardizing component television, agreed to undertake the study during recent meetings in Grass Valley, Calif.

The component systems standardized by the two groups do not utilize setup. Transfer of material between NTSC and component forms is complicated by the need to add or delete setup accurately, as well as to decrease or increase the level accurately when encoding or decoding.

"The use of setup in NTSC systems interfaced to component systems based on CCIR Rec. 601 makes such an interface difficult at best," said Baron. "It makes no difference whether the component systems are analog or digital. The removal or addition of setup will be a significant source of error wherever translation between the NTSC environment and the component environment takes place."

Said Weiss: "Having no setup in NTSC makes it possible to keep black levels constant without operator intervention. In addition, there is an improvement of approximately ¾ dB in signal-to-noise ratio or dynamic range attainable by eliminating setup. It would be necessary only to add setup on the output of a facility when required for transmission or interchange."

The working groups are coordinating their activities to create complementary component systems designed to allow easy interchange of signals between analog and digital form. The investigation of the elimination of setup will be conducted by the Joint Ad Hoc Group to Study Component Studio Implementation, chaired by Birney Dayton, Grass Valley Group. The widest possible input from the industry is desired for consideration of this issue.

Allied Film & Video celebrated its 25th anniversary in September at each of its six national divisions. In 1960, Allied Film & Video was one of many laboratories which processed professional motion-picture film. As video programming became increasingly important to the audiovisual market, the company expanded to provide video products and services to complement its film activities. The firm is represented in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Orlando, Detroit, Chicago, and Dallas. In conjunction with its anniversary, Allied announced the acquisition of an additional 30,000-ft^2 building adjacent to its present corporate headquarters facility, thereby expanding its Detroit operations to a total of 70,000 ft^2.

Allied Film & Video also announced a new service for companies wishing to communicate with their employees in various parts of the world, or those that employ video to present their products in other countries. The firm will make available, through its six national divisions, a video standards conversion, including NTSC, PAL, and SECAM and will provide direct film-to-PAL standard video transfers.

JVC Co. of America has issued a call for entries for its 1985 professional video competition. Now in its sixth year, the competition is intended to stimulate video communication among professionals. University and college students studying teleproduction, mass communications, journalism, or film are eligible as future professionals. Their submissions will be judged separately from those entered by professionals. An independent judging panel will evaluate the entry programs. Details pertaining to the competition are available by writing to: 1985 Professional Video Competition Pro Awards, c/o Shaw & Todd, Inc., 6215 Empire State Bldg., New York, NY 10118.

Sachtler Corp. of America, has announced that it is extending its warranty on all ENG, EFP, and lightweight camera support systems from one to three years. The extended warranty includes everything in the system except the fluid modules, which are leakproof by design and continue to be guaranteed against malfunction for five years. The company attributes the extension of the warranty to the low maintenance of the Sachtler camera support systems already in use in the U.S.

ASC-1, the first of American Satellite Co.'s communications spacecraft, was launched aboard the shuttle *Discovery* in August. The satellite was developed and built at RCA Astro-Electronics Div., East

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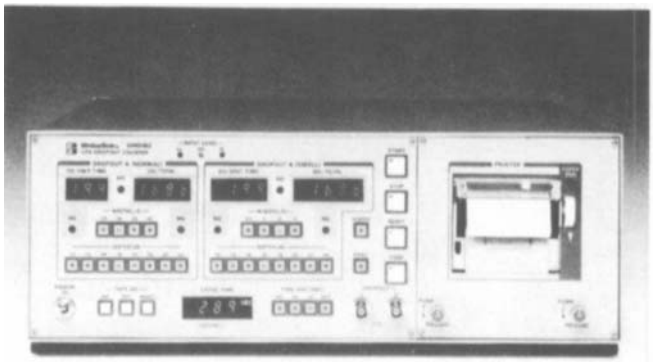

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Windsor, N.J. Telemetry, tracking and control equipment, launch services, and engineering support were provided by RCA when the ASC-1 was boosted into permanent geosynchronous orbit 22,300 miles above the equator.

RCA Americom announced that the first high-power Ku-band satellites in its new generation of communications spacecraft are scheduled for launch late this year aboard the space shuttle. The satellites were designed and built by RCA's Astro-Electronics Div. The communications network will include three satellites in orbit and a ground spare. Each will have 16 channels operating at 45 W in the 14/12-GHz band. Markets to be served include broadcast and syndication services, SMATV, direct-to-home TV broadcasting, and private voice, video data, and teleconferencing services for business and government users.

Hollywood Film Co. has acquired the motion-picture and photo finishing color analysis product lines of Hazeltine Corp. HFC will take over the manufacture, sales, and service of Hazeltine's electronic color analyzer systems along with its line of peripheral and support equipment.

Listec Television Equipment Corp., Plainview, N.Y., announced that it will distribute the Polar Video line of products in the U.S. The first of these products will be a self-contained 4-input production video switcher, the PVM-1.

Gotham Audio Corp. recently announced the sale of the company's business and name to a group of investors headed by Russell O. Hamm, long-time vice-president of Gotham. The company was founded in 1958 to import professional audio equipment manufactured by Georg Neumann of West Berlin.

The Rank Organization corporate headquarters in the U.K. has announced the combining of Strand Century of the U.S. and Rank Strand of the U.K. under a single organization and name: Strand Lighting. Marvin Altman is president and CEO of the new worldwide lighting and controls organization.

AKG Acoustics, Inc., has announced that it is currently marketing a new line of Philips BPE (back plate electret) microphones. The new line is intended for sound reinforcement in public address installations and systems, including stadiums, auditoriums, theaters, churches, factories, and terminals.

The Droid Works has announced the opening of an Eastern Region sales and field support office at 645 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022. The office has

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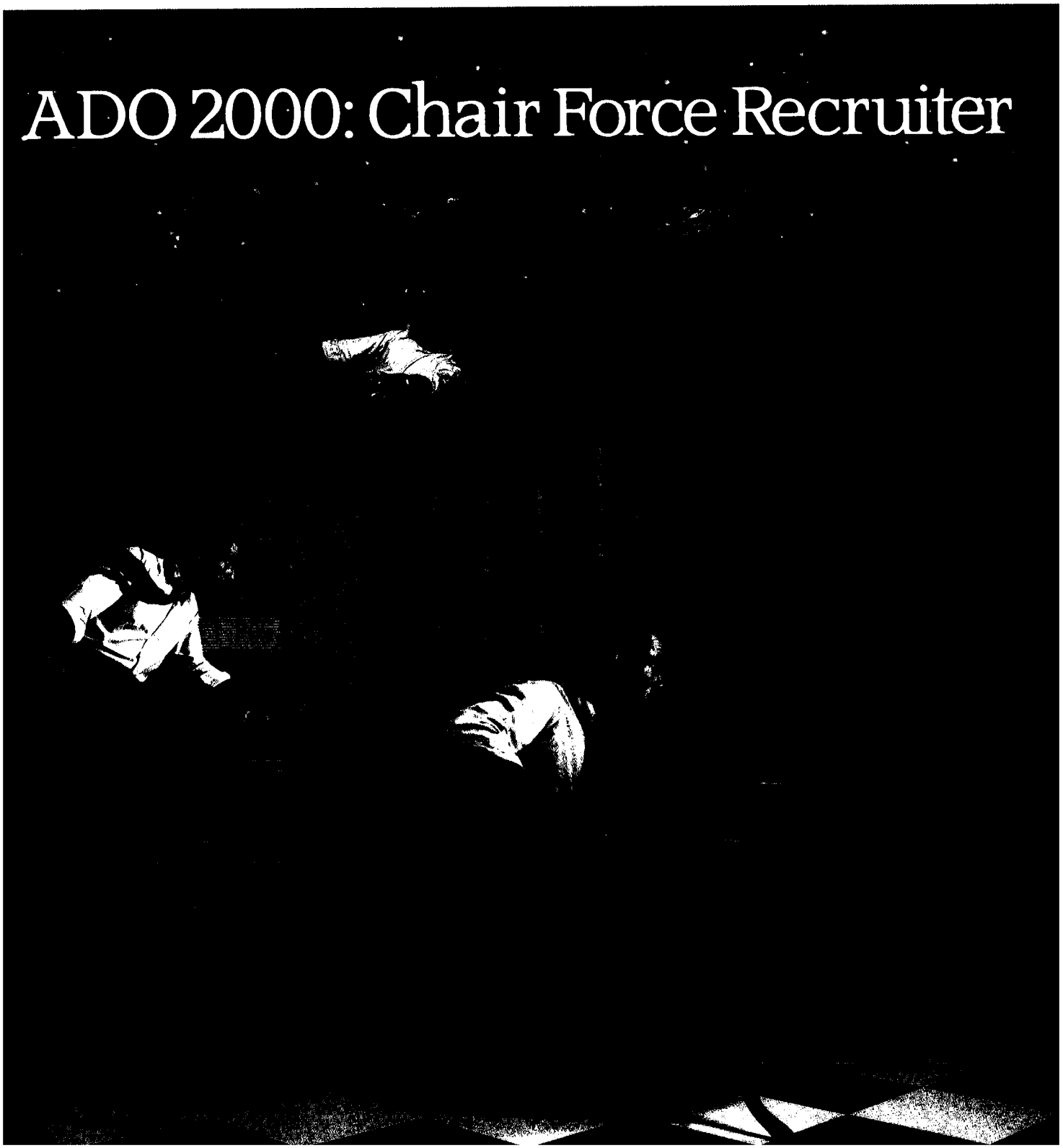

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Allen Products Co., Milford, Conn., has restructured its service capabilities by adding three new regions. The new regions cover upstate New York and the contiguous part of Connecticut; District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, and part of Maryland; and southern Florida.

The Camera Mart, Inc., has opened new regional offices in Evansville, Ind., and Huntington Beach, Calif. The regional sales offices will be serviced by the complete sales, rental, and technical facilities of the home office in New York City.

MCI/Quantel has announced expansion and unification of its U.S. operations. The firm will now conduct business in this country under the name Quantel, and an East Coast office will be established, in addition to its facility in Palo Alto, Calif.

Dr. Raymond Fielding, Fellow of the SMPTE and communications professor at the University of Houston, has been elected president of the University Film and Video Foundation. The foundation funds projects and scholarships in the field of film and broadcast education and conducts educational projects for the U.S. government and major foundations.

Walter Hariu has retired from WISC-TV, Madison, Wisc., following a 50-year career in broadcast engineering. Hariu joined the Morgan Murphy Stations, owner of WISC-TV, in 1935 as a radio engineer. He was responsible for construction and engineering supervision of several television stations in Wisconsin and Iowa, and in 1982, was named director of engineering for Morgan Murphy, with responsiblity for engineering operations at a corporate level.

Mathew S. Ceterski has been appointed vice-president, marketing, Recortec, Inc., Sunnyvale, Calif. He was formerly general manager, Sony Corp. of America, San Francisco. Previously he had been western regional manager for Norelco's Broadcast Div.

Charles Sandbank, assistant director of engineering, has been appointed deputy director of engineering, by the British Broadcasting Corp. He succeeds George

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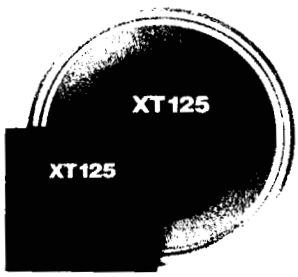

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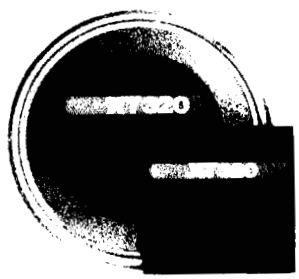

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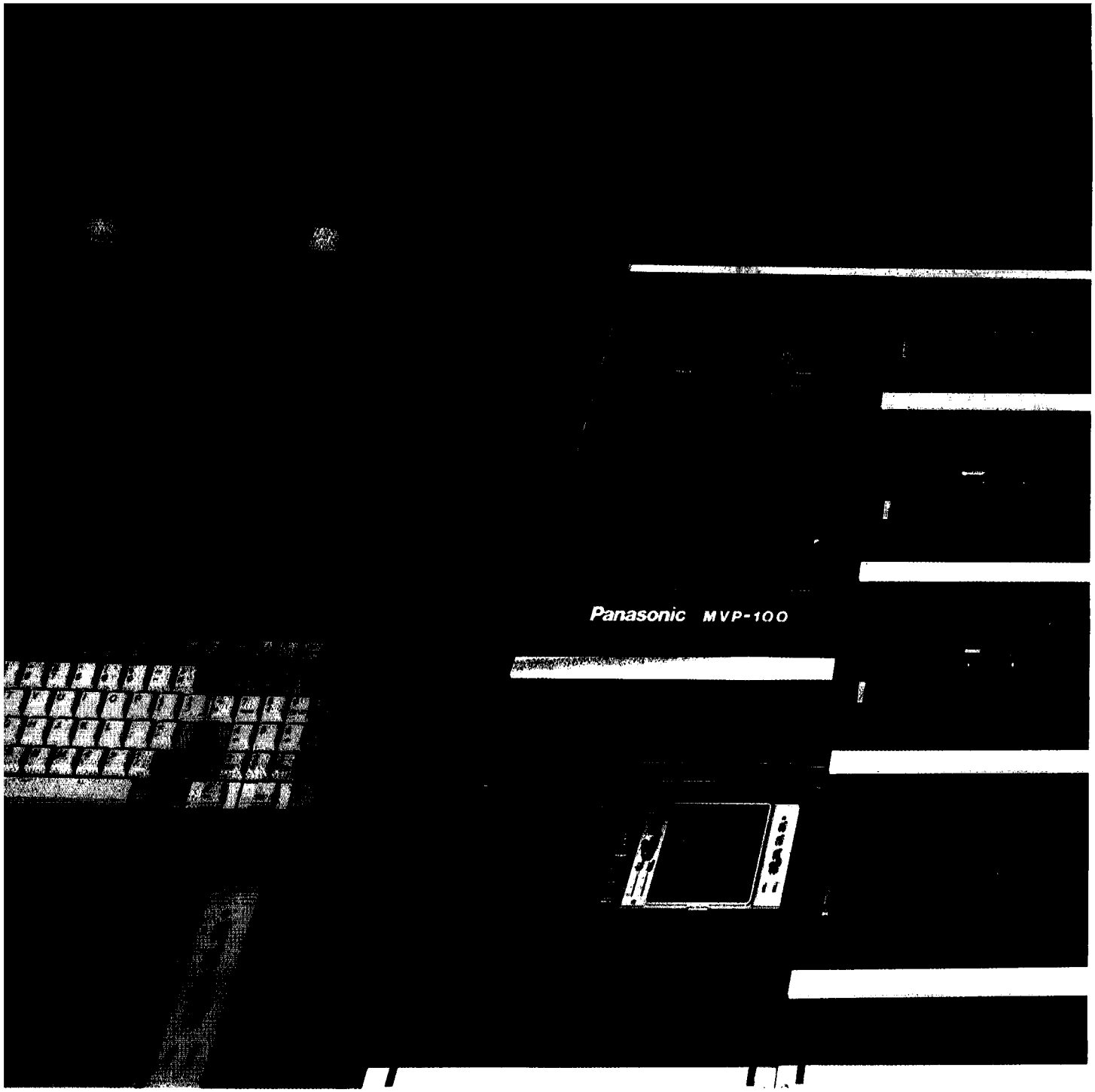

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Cook, who retired July 31 after 38 years of service. Sandbank joined the BBC in 1978 as head of the Engineering Research Dept. at Kingswood Warren, having previously been affiliated with Standard Telecommunication Laboratories. The BBC also announced the appointment of C. W. Dennay to succeed Sandbank as assistant director of engineering, and Russell Fletcher as controller, operations and engineering, BBC Radio.

RCA Corp. announced three new appointments in its Broadcast Systems Div., Gibbsboro, N.J. They are:

Nick J. Hudak has been named director, domestic sales. Hudak will have responsibility for U.S. sales of television studio equipment and transmitting systems manufactured by RCA, as well as an extensive complement of vendor products. Hudak joined RCA from Panasonic Broadcast Systems, where he served as manager of systems development and marketing. From 1966 to 1981, he held various marketing positions with RCA Broadcast TV Systems Engineering, Product Management, and Broadcast Sales.

Richard J. Boyland has been appointed manager, marketing operations. Boyland will head a new marketing operations group which will include advertising, bids, and proposals, and sales development. He joined the Broadcast Div. from RCA Americom, where he was manager of broadcast services. Boyland previously served as manager of portable equipment product management, RCA Broadcast Systems. He was responsible for the introduction of the RCA TK-76 portable camera.

James A. Gimbel has been named manager, marketing programs. Gimbel will have sales responsibility for several major group accounts and will spearhead special marketing projects. He has held a number of key marketing and sales positions in his 28-year career with RCA Broadcast Systems, including director of domestic sales and director of international marketing.

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